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**GEORGE LOMBARDOZZI, GAMBINO FAMILY SOLDIER, CONVICTED  
IN LOANSHARKING SCHEME IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT**

JAMES B. COMEY, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that GEORGE LOMBARDOZZI, a soldier in the Gambino Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, was convicted in Manhattan federal court after a two-week jury trial of three charges stemming from LOMBARDOZZI's participation in a loansharking scheme.

The evidence at trial established that LOMBARDOZZI, a member of the crew of his cousin, Gambino family caporegime Daniel Marino, directed the making and collection of a \$100,000 extortionate loan to the manager of a restaurant on the upper East Side of Manhattan. The unlawful loan had an annual interest rate of 104%.

In its verdict yesterday, the jury convicted LOMBARDOZZI of making the illegal and extortionate loan, conspiring with others to make the loan and conspiring with others to use threats of

violence to collect the loan. He was acquitted of one charge of using threats of violence to collect the loan.

The testimony at trial established that LOMBARDOZZI, as is typical of made members of organized crime families who engage in loan sharking, relied upon trusted associates to communicate directly with the victim of the loan, and to pick up the weekly interest payments. The testimony further revealed, however, that LOMBARDOZZI controlled the illegal loan sharking operation.

Frank Isoldi, who was shown at trial to be LOMBARDOZZI's close associate, had previously pled guilty to conspiring to use threats of violence to collect payments on the same \$100,000 loan. Isoldi also pled guilty to conspiring to use threats of violence to collect a separate loansharking loan, and to participating in an illegal gambling operation. Isoldi is presently serving a 41-month sentence of imprisonment resulting from this plea of guilty.

United States District Judge PETER K. LEISURE scheduled July 29, 2003, for the sentencing of LOMBARDOZZI. Following the verdict, LOMBARDOZZI was immediately remanded. LOMBARDOZZI faces 20 years' imprisonment on each of the three counts of conviction.

Mr. COMEY praised the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department for their investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys DIANE GUJARATI and ADAM B. SIEGEL are in charge of the prosecution.

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